



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION

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PRRS Quarterly Chief's Report

Issued 9/12/13 (Updates since June 7, 2013)

Highlights

- 1. Accreditation:** On August 11, the American Correctional Association approved the accreditation of the Pre-Release Center for three years. The accreditation commission found PRC in compliance with 241 of 242 correctional standards, and accepted the program's plan to address the one deficiency regarding the timeliness of performance evaluations. Nationally, fewer than five percent of the nation's local correctional systems seek and obtain this level of voluntary accreditation; all three Montgomery County DOCR facilities now hold this distinction. The ACA Certificate of Accreditation will be framed and hung near the entrance to the Center along with the previous certificates that go back to 1983.
- 2. Pre-Release Center Accessibility:** In July, construction began on an extensive project to bring the PRC in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act. Newly graded handicapped accessible parking spaces, ramps, and walkways are underway, and interior work is scheduled for this fall. When done, PRRS will be able to accommodate up to four residents who use wheel chairs.
- 3. Criminal Case Dispositions:** On August 30, former Resident Kyle Robinson was convicted of assault on a correctional staff member at PRC and received a sentence of three months. On September 3, former Justin Wilson was convicted of theft from the Pre-Release Center and was sentenced to time served. Wilson now faces a probation violation hearing and may receive additional "back-up" incarceration time. Both these cases involved unusual occurrences at the Pre-Release Center and PRRS staff fully participated in supporting the prosecution.
- 4. Grand Jury Report:** On August 30, the Montgomery County Grand Jury released a report that contained criticisms of the physical condition of the Pre-Release Center and the program's strict employment requirements. The report, based on a visit to the PRC on June 18 by over 20 Grand Jurors, describes the PRC "in a state of near disrepair..." with some of the Resident rooms as "uninhabitable." Concerning the requirement that Residents find work within 28 days, the report states that "it is unreasonable to expect that residents find gainful employment within such a short amount of time." They also responded to what they perceived as an arrogant "...we know what we are doing' culture..." and wrote that the program could benefit from a "fresh perspective." Regarding building maintenance issues, the DOCR has acknowledged significant problems with the aging PRC which has operated for over 35 years and served over 17,000 clients. The Department is working closely with the County agency responsible for the upkeep of PRC to address years of deferred maintenance. Concerning the program's employment practice, the Department disagrees with the Grand Jury's criticism and points to monthly data that shows that the vast majority of Residents comply with the strict requirements. PRRS Managers also presented to the Grand Jury references of decades of research that supports the efficacy of rapid return-to-work practices that is now the mainstay of state and federal workforce employment policies.

Program Developments

- Montgomery College Counseling:** On August 7, Montgomery College held a counseling session attended by over 40 PRC Residents. Over ten representatives from the college were on hand to discuss different programs of study for PRRS Residents ranging from two-year degree programs to certificate and licensure programs in food handling and truck driving. This event begins a new stage of partnership between corrections and the college that began three years ago under a federal grant to develop a workplace digital literacy program for PRRS Residents and that now includes an onsite GED program offered by the college.
- Museum Education Project:** George Washington University's graduate museum education program has assigned a Master's student to PRC to develop a museum teaching project for PRC residents. The student is onsite at the Pre-Release Center 16 hours a week, and she is developing a museum education trip that will be tailored to the needs and interests of the PRC population.
- Federal Bureau of Prison Monitoring Visit:** On July 26, The FBOP issued a letter detailing its findings from its annual monitoring visit conducted July 17-19. While the report highlighted three significant program strengths – the high percentage of employed Residents, the quality and engagement of the Community Advisory Committee, and the program's attainment of state and national accreditation, it listed three deficiencies. Two related to processes that PRRS needs to improve regarding the timeliness of approving referral applications sent by FBOP and notifying FBOP of when federal Residents are placed on home confinement. The third deficiency did address the poor condition of the Resident bathrooms. The FBOP accepted PRRS' plan to address all three deficiencies.
- PRRS Released Residents Maryland Reconviction Indices:** PRRS has begun to track monthly the reconviction rates of Released Residents from PRRS. Working with the Division Chief, Principal Administrative Assistant Joanna Henriquez has gathered the first months data which are presented below:

Released PRRS Residents Maryland Reconviction Index

Month/Year of Release	Sample Size	Time Span Studied	MD Reconviction	Average Days to Reconvict	% With More than 1 Conviction	Comments
Jul-12	24	1 Year	12.5%	146	4.2%	All new convictions were drug related offenses
Jul-10	37	3 Years	24.3%	474	13.5%	5 of the 9 had serious traffic convictions

Notes
 1. Descriptive data analysis presented; methodology prevents its use for program evaluative purposes.
 2. Criminal Justice data from web-based Maryland Judiciary Case Search and only includes Maryland criminal offenses.
 3. Only convictions during the time span are recorded. Pending matters, dismissals, probation before judgment are not included.
 4. Preliminary data presented. Study will involve tracking reconviction rates monthly going for one and three years.
 5. Independent variables captured include DOB, custody status (local/federal), gender, and CJ identifiers. Additional program and demographics will be added.
 6. Data analysis aims to answer two questions: was Released PRRS Resident convicted of a crime in Maryland over a specified period of time, and if so, when?

- Financial Audit:** The DOCR, working with the County's Department of Finance, has contracted with an outside auditor to review the Department fiscal controls on the resident escrow account.

6. Work Release Statistics (July 2013 presented at August staff meeting)

Work Release Performance Measures														
DATE: July 2013 (FN 1)														
Unit	Wed 12am Count	Employed Residents						Unemployed Residents						
		FT Community Employment > 32 Hours Per Week	PT Community Employment 31-25 Hours Per Week	PT Community Employment < 25 Hours Per Week	Inside Employment (FN 2)	Approved Alternative Placement (FN 3)	Total	Community Work Engaged %	Work Release Engaged %	Transfer < 21 Days	Transfer > 21 Days	Total	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate Net New Arrivals
1	10	6	4	0	1	0	10	40.0%	50.0%	1	0	1	10.0%	0.0%
2	0	0	0	0	0	0		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	0	0		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
3	0	0	0	0	0	0		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	0	0		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
4	0	0	0	0	0	0		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	0	0		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Total	10							0.0%	0.0%			1	10.0%	10.0%

Footnote 1: Data collection on Wednesday using midnight count and inclusive of releases later that day. (Data entered in green cells only)

Footnote 2: Individuals are assigned to inside worker status for programmatic and security reasons.

Footnote 3: Individuals approved due to medical/disability/retirement factors

Security/Facility

1. **Centralized Check-Out:** PRRS will centralize the check-out process for all Residents beginning on October 1, 2013. Currently, Residents check out from each of the four housing units, and the new process will create a centralized check-out area in the front of the building. The change will allow the Division to deploy staff with greater flexibility, and increase consistency and accountability of operations.
2. **Sunday Transfers of New Residents:** Beginning on Sunday, September 15, new PRRS Residents will be transferred from the detention facilities to PRC on Sunday morning rather than Monday morning. Staffing, traffic, and program considerations drove this change.
3. **Staff Bathrooms:** Two new staff bath rooms and locker rooms have been established on Unit 1 across from the staff break room.
4. **PRC Garden:** Resident Supervisor Wendy Qassis initiated a project with Residents to create a garden within the courtyard of the Pre-Release program. On September 24, the Pre-Release Center will host the first annual Garden Harvest Event at PRRS. The public event will involve the Montgomery County Food Council and the County's Master Gardeners.
5. **PRC Trash Area:** PRC is installing a new concrete dumpster pad and fence as well as a concrete foundation for a shed used to store tools for the weekender program.

Personnel

1. Arrivals

- Ms. Cemora Harrison is the new Coordinator of the Welcome Home mentoring program. The program, overseen by Catholic Charities, matches community mentors with PRC Residents and has operated for over 7 years. Prior to this position, Cemora worked twelve years in the state's juvenile justice system at the Charles Hickey Jr. School and more recently as a Case Manager and Juvenile probation officer. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice from Towson University
- Ms. Maralee (Lee) Thompson-Yood is a newly appointed adjunct professor with Montgomery College and teaches the GED program at the Pre-Release Center. Prior to this position, she was the senior education specialist at the DC-based Covenant House, and had prior teaching experience in public and private schools. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Business Management from Potomoc College and a Master's Degree in Special Education from John Hopkins University.

2. Departures

- Mr. Brian Davis accepted a promotion as a Case Manager with DOCR's Pre-Trial's Intervention Program for Substance Abuse beginning June. He joined PRRS as a Resident Supervisor in February 2013 and began his new position at Pre-Trial on August 6, 2013.

3. **Vacancies:** PRRS is in the process of hiring for two vacant Resident Supervisor positions.

4. Professional Development

- Resident Supervisor Amirrah Peterson graduated from State Correctional Academy with honors and was elected class spokesperson.
- Case Manager III Fritz Jadotte taught two session of a training program called Mental Health First Aid to PRRS staff members in July and August. The program provides a foundation in educating participants about mental health conditions and teaches techniques to effectively engage clients with mental health conditions.
- Deputy Chief of Programs and Security Shannon Murphy completed two mandatory two-week trainings on First Line Supervision and and Administration. The trainings were offered at the Maryland Correctional academy in Sykesville, Maryland.

Escapes (Last 12 months)

One escapes in calendar year 2013

Escape Date	Return Date	Last Name	First Name	Description	Disposition
7/23/2013	7/23/2013	Hayes	Dalton	Individual left PRC for a job interview and was unaccountable in the community. He voluntarily returned to the Pre-Release Center.	Awaiting Trial

Population Served

Month	June	July	Aug
PRRS Average Daily Population	152	148.6	148.8
Local Jail Resident Subgroup	110	106	111.9
Federal Resident Subgroup	42	42.6	36.9
Female Subgroup	16.3	13.8	11.1
Home Confinement Subgroup	11.5	9.6	13.6

Visits/Events/Meetings (exclusive of those mentioned before)

1. 6/7/13: Visit from State Secretaries of Labor and Juvenile Justice along with their staff members.
2. 6/17/13: Meeting with OMB to discuss PRRS Kitchen Capital Improvement Project.
3. 6/18/13: Montgomery County Grand Jury conducts inspection and review of PRRS operations.
4. 6/28/13: Meeting with Restaurant Association Education Foundation.
5. 7/15/13: Master Confinement Study meeting/teleconference on Day Reporting.
6. 7/17/13: FBOP annual monitoring visit which concluded on 7/19/13.
7. 8/6/13: Meeting with HHS Division Chiefs concerning areas of program collaboration.
8. 8/7/13: Hosted meeting of White Flint Public Safety Commission.
9. 8/7/13: Montgomery College Counseling Session event.
10. 8/11/13: PRC hosted six tours for ACA Conference at National Harbor over three days.
11. 8/11/13: American Correctional Association Accreditation Commission Hearing.
12. 8/12/13: ACA Accreditation Certificate issued to PRC.
13. 8/14/13: Visit from SEPTA Correctional Facility staff from Nelsonville, Ohio.
14. 8/15/13: Staff barbecue to celebrate ACA Accreditation.
15. 8/28/13: Meeting with County Stat on Justice Reinvestment.
16. 8/30/13: Kyle Robinson Trial.
17. 9/3/13: Justin Wilson plea and sentencing hearing.
18. 9/5/13: Meeting with Dept. of General Services on building maintenance/renovation issues.
19. 9/10/13: Meeting with Electronic Monitoring Equipment vendor.